

WILSON PLEDGES ADD TO RICHMOND IN FIGHT FOR BANK

North Carolina City Enthusiastic in Its Tender of Support.

RECEIVES LOCAL BANK APOSTLES

Financiers Point Out That if Only for Selfish Reasons, This Territory Should Stand Firm for Regional Reserve Located Here, and Formal Resolutions to That Effect Are Adopted. Delegation Goes To-Day to Goldsboro, Greensboro and Winston-Salem to Continue Campaign — Salisbury Alone May Be in Opposition.

By LOUIS L. JAFFE.

Wilson, N. C., January 7.—With hand outstretched in welcome to the Richmond reserve bank apostles and the gospel they brought with them, the city of Wilson this afternoon, speaking through a representative gathering of its Chamber of Commerce, pledged its undivided support to the movement for the appointment of Richmond as the location for one of the regional reserve banks provided by the new currency act.

The city evidenced its live interest in the issue by sending to the meeting a delegation of prominent bankers and professional men that crowded the assembly room of the Chamber of Commerce building to its doors. Members continued to come after the meeting was called to order by President Lawrence Brett, of the Chamber of Commerce, sitting silently in to hear fellow-citizens discuss the momentous question in hand.

Sentiment Unmistakable.

There was no way to mistake the sentiment of the meeting. Speaker after speaker gave it as his opinion that North Carolina, particularly this section of North Carolina, could under no circumstances favor any city but Richmond for designation as the regional reserve point. With a direct invitation from President Brett for a complete expression of opinion, not a single member of the large gathering ventured to brave a differing view.

Former Congressman E. A. Woodard, now a member of the North Carolina State Legislature, summed up the sentiment of Wilson's business men, with the statement that for selfish consideration alone, if for no other reason, this section of North Carolina would feel constrained to stand by Richmond.

"Personally," said Mr. Woodard, "I am for the appointment of Richmond. The resources of the city are being tapped so well outlived by us by Mr. Seay, convince me more strongly than ever that there is every reason why Richmond should be appointed."

John H. Harding, president of the First National Bank, said that Richmond's claim had been presented so clearly and so convincingly that he could not see how Wilson could avoid endorsing it. The same sentiment was held by Mr. Anderson, of the Branch Banking Company, who told the large gathering that only Richmond would satisfy him. J. E. Rittiger, a director in the First National Bank, and one of the city's biggest merchants, said that everything considered, Richmond was the one place for the location for a Federal reserve bank to serve this section of the country. Upon the motion of ex-Congressman Woodard, a resolution was adopted by the Chamber of Commerce, President Anderson, of the Branch Banking Company, and President Bruton, of the First National Bank, was appointed with power to make a resolution of the Chamber of Commerce of the Wilson Chamber of Commerce.

The committee retired after adjournment, and within ten minutes issued a statement declaring its conviction that Richmond was the logical point for the location of a regional reserve bank to serve this district and the South, and committing the city of Wilson and its Chamber of Commerce to a resolution calling upon North Carolina's Representatives in Congress to make its influence in securing Richmond's appointment.

Chairman Brett, of the committee, said that a formal resolution embodying the action of the Chamber of Commerce will be prepared at once, and forwarded to Washington, and to each of North Carolina's Representatives in Washington.

Seay Heard With Interest.

The meeting was marked by the deep interest with which the representatives of the regional bank question by George J. Seay. The Richmond financier spoke for thirty minutes upon the general provisions of the currency act and the desirability of creating in the South a Federal reserve zone homogeneous in interest and served by a bank essentially Southern in character. He directed his remarks to the South's needs. It was clear that Seay's argument went home. The gathering rallied spontaneously to the support of his proposition that the North Carolina and South Carolina Virginia form a commercial zone which should be maintained in its integrity as concerns its financial operations, and that the founding of a Federal reserve bank in Richmond would best serve that end.

Herbert W. Jackson spoke briefly and with no less conviction. He was back home where people know him as a boy and what he said struck home. Richmond lends \$10,000,000 of its funds to North Carolina and prefers to lend there, he said, because it feels that its relations with North Carolina are closer and more intimate than with any other neighboring State. It was absolutely essential to the welfare of both, said Mr. Jackson, that the two States remain coupled together in a

(Continued On Tenth Page.)

DENY CHARGE OF COWARDICE

Officers of the Manuel Calvo Claim They Did Everything Possible.

New York, January 7.—Officers of the Spanish steamship *Manuel Calvo* were indignant to-day when they heard that Captain Alfred Gunter, of the bank steamer *Oklahoma*, had found fault with the efforts they made to rescue his crew when the *Oklahoma* broke in two on Sunday off Harmerman. They declared they had done all they could, and that some of their crew were in the hospital suffering from injuries received when their lifeboat was dashed against the ship's side.

In Boston Captain Gunter was quoted as saying: "That Spaniard just fooled around. He put over a boat on their forcing around some more, and finally picked up his boat and went away. Speaking for the *Oklahoma*, Benet, an officer of the Manuel Calvo said to-day: "He did everything he could. He dropped one life-boat overboard and it was smashed by the seas, and we had difficulty in saving our own men in it. When darkness came, Captain Benet dared not remain near the *Oklahoma* because she was showing no lights. He had to steam away for the safety of his own passengers. But he did not desert her."

CONSUMER IS BLAMED

He Is Responsible for High Cost of Living.

Chicago, Ill., January 7.—Blame was fixed to-day in the matter of the high cost of living. Despite his clamor at the high cost of eggs, and the price of meat and the price of everything it is the consumer himself who is responsible for the situation.

That is the dictum of the retail grocers' executive officers, who met in Chicago to-day.

"Did you ever hear of a foreigner crying about the high cost of living?" demanded Sol Westernfield, chairman of the retail grocers' association of the national association. "You did not. It is the American or the very much shouting. Your real foreigner, and he is to be found in practically all neighborhoods, may be a great meat eater, but when meat is high he cuts down on his supply."

S. W. Straus, banker, to-day asserted that he would not be attending about a conference of the officers of the Grocers' Association and representatives of the American Society for Thrift, of which he is chairman of the organization committee. The idea of the organization is to raise the standard of individual thrift.

TIME TOO SHORT TO REPLY

Railroads Not Able to Answer Questions Proposed by Interstate Commerce Commission to-day.

Washington, January 7.—Railroads asking a 5 per cent increase in freight rates, the Interstate Commerce Commission to-day declined to answer the list of seventy-three questions proposed by the commission in reference to their business.

Counsel for the New York Central stated that too short a time had been given to the corporation to make answers. Other railroads also stated that it would be impossible to reply during the time allowed for answering the list of questions, as requested by the commission.

It was estimated that \$75,000 would have to be expended by the New York Central before an adequate reply could be made to the commission's query about the high cost of business in New York harbor. A proposal for a temporary extension of time was taken under consideration.

FOR PELLAGRA HOSPITAL

Secretary McAdoo Urges Emergency Appropriation of \$47,000.

Washington, January 7.—An emergency appropriation of \$47,000 to establish a pellagra hospital in the South was urged upon Speaker Champ Clark by the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McAdoo, to-day.

"Pellagra will occur in the spring when the weather is hot and the immediate need of comprehensive means to combat it," he said. "It has now become a national menace."

SAYRES LEAVE PARIS

Attend Farewell Luncheon at American Embassy in London.

London, January 7.—Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Sayre, who have been in England for a close this afternoon, and left for Paris.

They attended a farewell luncheon at the American embassy in London, which Ambassador Page and his family, besides members of the embassy staff, were present. The Sayres made no definite arrangements for their sojourn in Paris, but hope to see what is worth seeing and do some shopping.

WEDDING OF INTEREST

Miss Mary Ivy Hayes Becomes Bride of J. W. Wilson, of North Carolina.

Washington, January 7.—The wedding of interest to army and navy circles was the marriage of Miss Mary Ivy Hayes, daughter of the late Brigadier General E. M. Hayes, U. S. A., and James W. Wilson, of Morganton, N. C. The bride's father, Dr. Richard Hayes, gave her in marriage, and her only attendant was Miss Bettie Bryant, the niece of the bridegroom.

GOVERNMENT FOR CANAL ZONE

Plan Still Being Decided Upon by President Wilson.

Washington, January 7.—One of President Wilson's first acts upon returning to Washington was to decide upon the plan of government for the Panama Canal Zone. Secretary Garrison said to-day that his ideas on the subject were given to the President before the latter went to Pass Christian for the holidays.

Mr. Garrison declined to say whether he had recommended a military or civil government for the organization. The law permits either.

WOODWANTS ARMY TO BE REASONABLY PREPARED FOR WAR

Declares Judgment Not Influenced by Mexican Situation.

MORE FIELD GUNS AND AMMUNITION

To Send Troops Into Battle With Present Supply Would Be Absolute Slaughter, He Says, in Asking Appropriations Amounting to \$6,000,000.

Washington, January 7.—Explaining that his judgment was not influenced by the Mexican situation, Major-General Wood, chief of staff of the army, has advised the committee of Congress that he needs more field guns and ammunition for the regular army, and \$2,000,000 for the militia. "If you sent our troops into war as they are now without guns and ammunition," he would be absolute slaughter," the general told the House Military Committee. "If called into the field suddenly we should have to do with a small allowance of ammunition, and we should have neither guns nor ammunition enough for our field artillery forces."

General Wood, in a written statement, said: "We neither have guns nor ammunition sufficient to give any general commanding an army in the field any assurance of success if attacked by an army of equal size which is supplied with its proper quota of field artillery."

Of Short Duration.

"It is my belief that no modern war between first-class powers will last for more than a few weeks, and unless private manufacturers are encouraged to manufacture ammunition for our guns after war is declared, they will not be in a condition to do so until after the war is finished."

"The War Department believes after extended study that in cases of war with a first-class power, an army of 500,000 men will be needed to give any chance of success against invasion, and that this force will be needed at once. To make it efficient it must be given its proper quota of field artillery. To do this this artillery must be on hand before the war is started."

The general suggested that the United States regular mobile army should be organized into three infantry and two cavalry divisions with an aggregate strength of about 250,000, requiring fifty-four batteries of 216 guns.

With the co-operation of State Governors, the militia, he said, now could be organized into five divisions, with an aggregate war strength of 250,000 men, needing 174 batteries of 216 guns. The aggregate of the two forces thus would be 500,000 men, or approximately half the field army short of the force of 500,000 men. These two field armies would require 336 guns. The United States garrisons abroad have sixty-eight guns. General Wood said that total appropriations up to October 1 last by the House Military and Appropriation Committees provided for only 245,098 rounds of ammunition for the modern field guns, all of which ammunition will not be manufactured until June 30 next.

Lack of Ammunition.

"Of this ammunition," he added, "we have at present in this country 186,508 rounds, and for the 250,000 guns 15,000 rounds, or a total of 201,508 rounds. And this is all we have. At Mukden, in nine days, the 1,204 Russian guns expended 250,000 rounds. "The present daily consumption of the house batteries, for three shifts running night and day, is not above 1,600 rounds. The War Department was obliged last year to equip part of the regular army with obsolete seven-inch regular army with obsolete seven-inch regular material because of lack of sufficient ammunition for the modern guns."

The War Department is trying to accelerate the production of various calibers, of which 753 yet have to be appropriated. General Wood said it was not his idea that the country constantly should be armed to the teeth in preparation for any war, but that it should be reasonably prepared for war.

JONES STILL A SICK MAN

Doesn't Know When He Will Be Able to Continue Duties in House.

Washington, January 7.—Representative William A. Jones, of Virginia, who for some time past has been unable to get on his feet, and who is now in his seat in the House for several months, was in Washington to-day for a short time. He came to this city from Baltimore, where he has been undergoing treatment, and to which place he returned to-night. Mr. Jones said that while he hopes to be in Washington when the House meets on Monday, he does not yet know when he would be able to resume his work.

"Of course, I am very anxious," Mr. Jones said, "to get back to work as soon as possible, but I realize that I must be careful and take care of myself."

P. H. McG.

MORSE IS TRYING TO HAVE CONGRESS REVIEW HIS CASE

Former "Ice King" About to Write Another Chapter in Drama That Carried Him From Banking Regions of New York to Atlanta Penitentiary.

Washington, January 7.—Charles W. Morse, the former "ice king," one of the most spectacular figures in modern American finance and the principal actor in a drama that lasted for a half-dozen years and carried him from the banking regions of New York to the Atlanta penitentiary, is about to write another chapter to his story. After months of investigation and labor, Morse is trying to launch an investigation by a Congressional committee of all the circumstances leading up to his conviction six years ago for violation of the national banking laws. Although his plans have not been announced, it became known here to-day that he also contemplates suit for damages against prominent New York bankers and others connected with his trial and conviction.

Morse had a talk with Senator Borah, of Idaho, here yesterday and suggested to him the need for an investigation of his case by a Senate committee. Although the Idaho Senator refused to press the matter, the ex-banker is understood to have left Washington to pursue his effort for an inquiry.

Morse was sent to the Atlanta penitentiary to serve a fifteen-year sentence. After a quiet but persistent fight, led by Mrs. Morse and backed by many prominent persons, his sentence was commuted by former President Taft. Mr. Taft acted on the statement of army surgeons, who declared that Morse could not live longer than six months if he remained in prison for two years. Shortly afterwards he sailed for Europe, took a "cure" and then returned to the United States.

Since his return from Europe, Morse has been busy in the production of an open court of public opinion, at least in the case against him. He is said to hold that the principal charge on which he was convicted, the making of false entries in the books of the National Bank of North America, was a flimsy charge, and that he did nothing more than was done by scores of bankers in New York. He is understood to charge that the office of the Comptroller of the Currency was refused at his trial to allow the jury to see the report of the national bank examiner who investigated the Bank of North America, and indicates that the national bank examiner established the fact that he had done nothing unlawful. He is said to contend that this refusal was based in part on the fact that other New York bankers were making the same sort of books, and that the production of the examiner's report in court would have resulted necessarily in the prosecution of many other persons.

Charges Against Jurymen.

Morse first was convicted in the Federal Court in 1908, and subsequently charged that jurymen who passed on his case were under the influence of liquor, and that the entire jury was under the charge of improper guardians of the Federal reserve secret service men from Washington.

In his long fight to regain liberty, Morse succeeded in getting the interest and friendship of prominent men here, and it was not doubted to-night that his effort to bring the matter into the limelight again would have powerful support.

New Morse Declines to Talk.

Washington, January 7.—Charles W. Morse's refusal to discuss to-night news from Washington that he was seeking to get the production of the conditions leading to his trial and the contemplated action for damages against prominent New York financiers and others in this connection, was learned, however, that Mr. Morse's friends or some time have been urging him to take action.

PLANS TO EXPEND MILLIONS

Elaborate Scheme for Constructive Advancement of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Pa., January 7.—State Senator James P. McNichol, the Republican leader, to-day made known tentative plans for the constructive advancement of the city, involving the expenditure of millions of dollars. It is planned to have a special election called in the spring for the purpose of having the people vote on the proposition to borrow \$10,000,000 or \$15,000,000 needed in the work.

Senator McNichol said that he thought this money should be expended principally in improving the outlying districts of the city, and in the extension of rapid transit facilities to all sections through subways and elevated lines. The plan carries, it will give employment to between 25,000 and 35,000 men.

JOHN H. HARDING, CONFESSED DEFAULTER, ELUDES POLICE



JOHN H. HARDING.

BLAIR BUYS NEXT WILL SURRENDER, TO POST-OFFICE SAYS HIS FATHER

Takes Over Commonwealth Bank Stock in Old Dominion Building Company.

MAY ERECT BIG SKYSCRAPER POLICE MAKE VAIN SEARCH

Sale of 800 Shares for \$50,000 Confirmed by Chancery Court.

By agreement between Receivers John B. Lightfoot and James W. Gordon, of the Commonwealth Bank, and the Old Dominion Building Company, 800 shares of the Virginia Building Corporation, which owned the northwest corner of Eleventh and Main Streets, have been sold to A. B. Blair, representing himself and a syndicate, for \$50,000. The report of the receivers of the Commonwealth Bank, filed yesterday in the Chancery Court, was accepted by Judge Moncure, and the sale of the property to Mr. Blair ordered to be ratified. The Commonwealth Bank owned 650 shares of the capital stock of the Virginia Building Corporation, and, by the decree of the court, Mr. Blair and his associates, will obtain more cash with which to reimburse the depositors who lost their money when the bank failed.

The agreement between the Commonwealth Bank and the Old Dominion Building Company as to the disposition of their stock in the Virginia Building Corporation was reached through the following resolution adopted by the officers of the Old Dominion Company: "Be it resolved, That the secretary and treasurer be authorized and instructed to unite with the receivers of the Commonwealth Bank, in selling, transferring and delivering all of the capital stock of the Virginia Building Corporation, in which this company is interested, on the basis of \$50,000 for 800 shares, upon such terms as said receivers may think best."

Judge Moncure decreed that the sale should be confirmed, and directed the receivers of the Commonwealth Bank to unite with the Old Dominion Building Company in transferring the stock of the Virginia Building Corporation to Mr. Blair and his associates. The terms of the sale are to be \$5,000 in cash and the balance to be paid within thirty days from date, January 6.

It is understood that the property at Eleventh and Main Streets has been offered to the Federal government, and that if the offer be not accepted, a twenty-two-story building will be erected on the site now occupied by two small buildings.

VEDRINES TO RESUME TRIP

Aviator Says He Will Arrive in New York on March 25.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]

London, January 7.—Julius Vedrines, who arrived here a few days ago from Paris on his flying trip around the world, announced to-day that he intended to resume his trip shortly.

"I shall arrive in New York on March 25, neither the day before nor the day after, but on the 25th. I shall fly via South America," said the aviator.

Vedrines declined to discuss his trouble with Henry Roux or the exchange of telegrams between himself and Reno Quinton, president of the National Aerial League, which carried the threat of a duel between Vedrines and Quinton.

CANCER PATIENT IMPROVING

Several Washington Friends Visit Representative Bremner.

Washington, January 7.—Representative Bremner, of New Jersey, undergoing the radium cancer cure at Baltimore, Md., is improving. The patient was visited to-day by Secretary to the President Tumulty, Senator Hughes, of New Jersey, Thomas Pence, Charles J. Smith, of New Jersey, and Samuel Rhythe. The party brought the cheering news back to Washington.

Secretary Tumulty carried a personal message of hope to Bremner from President Wilson.

JOHN H. HARDING, CONFESSED DEFAULTER, ELUDES POLICE

COMMONWEALTH BANK CLERK SAYS HE LOOK \$13,461

After Ten-Day Respite, Family Refuses to Give Bond to Make Good Shortage.

FATHER SAYS SON WILL SURRENDER HIMSELF TO-DAY

Attorney Lamb Makes Vain Effort to Induce Receivers and Audit Company to Omit All Names in Report Explaining Peculations—Chief of Police Issues Three Warrants, but Embarrassed Is Still at Large—Was Under Surety for Only \$5,000. Bookkeeper Owns Two Automobiles and Title to Real Estate.

After he had acknowledged before John B. Lightfoot, Jr., and James W. Gordon, receivers, before his father, and before others that he was himself responsible for the shortage of \$13,461.72 in the assets of the Commonwealth Bank, in which he had been a bookkeeper, John H. Harding, twenty-five years old, succeeded yesterday in eluding detectives assigned to serve three grand larceny warrants on him, and is still at large. His father, J. E. Harding, promised last night, however, upon demand by the police, that the young man would surrender himself this morning.

Though Harding's self-confessed peculations range over a wide period of time, and involve several hundred varying amounts, only three warrants were sworn out against him by Chief of Police Werner. He may be held on any or one of them, and supplementary warrants for each separate theft may be issued against him.

Given Ten Days Delay.

With the tracing of certain funds unaccounted for to the young bookkeeper, the work of the receivers was practically ended; and, after they had delayed Harding in their report ten days, in order to allow Harding to elude the result of their investigations, their report contained the findings of the American Audit Company, whose accounting showed Harding to be responsible for the missing funds. The ten days' respite had been granted on the plea of Attorney John A. Lamb, who had informed the receivers that Harding's mother and father would give and secure their joint bond to make good the obligation incurred by their son. The receivers reported that the father had refused at the last to secure the bond, and that Attorney Lamb, to whom certain papers and memoranda of real and personal property belonging to young Harding had been turned over, refused to return them to the receivers.

Owens Two Automobiles.

Partial recovery may be had though, as Harding was bonded in the sum of \$5,000 by the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, which is entitled to have offset against his liability \$2,000 represented by a cashier's check. The receivers learned also that he is the owner of two automobiles, now in Norfolk.

Harding took amounts varying from \$5 to a sum more than \$1,000. Some of the amounts were checked behind him, and he nearly every day in the week, and then took a recess in peculation. During the first few months, the records show, he did not touch money on the thirteenth day of the month. Toward the end of the period of his peculations, however, he became careless and the thirteen day held no terrors for him. He disregarded it, and it is shown that the thefts continued up to within a few days of the failure of the bank and the appointment of receivers to take care of the hundreds of small depositors who had here their meagre accounts.

When confronted with proof of his guilt, Harding said that he thought the amount he had stolen did not exceed more than \$5,000. When later he added a check-up on his own false entries, he found that his estimate had fallen far short of the whole sum involved. The small thefts of the day became hundreds at the week end and thousands when the books were closed against him.

Total Shortage \$13,461.72.

According to the report filed by the receivers, John B. Lightfoot, Jr., and James W. Gordon, Harding is directly responsible for a shrinkage in the assets of the Commonwealth Bank of \$13,461.72. When the report was filed with Judge Moncure, of the Chancery Court, he ordered that the facts be referred to the Commonwealth Bank, in which he had no deposit, and then destroyed them when brought by the clearing house to the bank in which he was employed, covering the shortage by making additions on the general ledger. He did not charge

(Continued On Ninth Page.)